

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Grieved at their hardness of heart . . . (Mark 3:5)

During Mass one Sunday morning, a teenager chatted with the man seated next to him. The teen had been invited by a friend, and he clearly hadn't been to church very often. His speech was peppered with bad language. His mannerisms seemed rough. And he kept speaking at the worst possible times. Offended by the boy's actions, the man thought, "Doesn't he know this is a church?"

But something happened that morning at Mass that led this teenager to have a dramatic encounter with the Lord. He began reading the Scriptures and attending Mass regularly. He met with the pastor and joined the parish. Soon he became an altar server and began singing in the youth choir. When the man saw all of this, he felt ashamed for judging this misfit teen harshly.

There's a similar story in today's Gospel from Mark. During a synagogue liturgy, Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. But instead of rejoicing at the man's restoration, some of the leaders chafed because Jesus had done it on the Sabbath. Like the first man, they missed the deeper meaning of the Sabbath—that it was a gift from the

Lord, a time for healing and refreshment. But unlike the first man, their hard hearts didn't soften. On the contrary, Mark tells us that they began plotting Jesus' death.

So why did the religious leaders get angrier, while the man at Mass had a change of heart? The difference was that the first man softened his heart when he saw how God had worked in the boy's life. All the Jewish leaders could see was an infraction of the Law; they couldn't look behind the infraction to see the evidence of God's mercy and love.

How do you react when someone rubs you the wrong way? How welcoming are you to the "misfits" in your church? Like the man at Mass and the religious leaders in Mark, you have a choice. You can become annoyed at appearances, or you can look beyond appearances to see a heart being changed. Try seeing things from God's perspective. Maybe that person is nearer to him than you think! The Lord might just use your welcoming, kind words as his instrument of healing.

"Jesus, take the callous places in my heart and soften them. Fill me with your compassion."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ St. Patrick's first ever Contemporary Christian concert starring Brandon Green will be held Friday, February 1, at 7 pm, tickets are \$10.00 each in advance online or \$20.00 at the door. All students who purchase a ticket and attend will receive a free jean day.
- ★ National Honor Society, your next meeting is Wednesday, February 6th. Please mark your calendars.
- ★ Seniors, if you have been accepted at USM, please make sure you read your email from Ms. Wilkinson. If you are planning to attend USM and did not receive an email, see Ms. Wilkinson.

- ★ Friday is the deadline for all students interested in joining the St Patrick Chapter of the National Art Honor Society. To be considered for membership, students must be enrolled in or have taken visual arts and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in all academic classes. Please see Mrs. Benoit for more information.
- ★ We would like to congratulate the Lady Irish varsity basketball team on their victory last night against Perry Central. We won 59-28. The Lady Irish now have a district record of 6 wins and 1 loss. Players of the game were Makenzie Stenum, Gabby Patino, Ijia Henderson, and Chandler Wheeler. Congratulations ladies!
- ★ The Lady Irish soccer team defeated Perry Central last night with a score of 6-0. Jessica Harrison led the scoring with two goals. Mary Cate Sliman, Ella McLoughlin, Grace McLoughlin, and Abby Badurak all tallied a goal apiece. The Lady Irish will host Resurrection for senior night on Thursday at 5:30. A win will secure a playoff spot. Come out and support the Lady Irish Soccer Team.
- ★ The Irish men's basketball team defeated Perry Central 81-31 last night. Jay Parker, Windfield Swetman, and Drew Roth led the team in scoring. Michael Moeller, Nick Krass, and Michael Fitzpatrick contributed to the victory. The Irish will host a very good Collins team Friday night. Go Irish!
- ★ Reminder: Sign up sheets for those interested in joining the Fighting Irish Men's and Women's golf teams are located in the cafeteria and will remain there until tomorrow. Be sure to sign up if you are interested in playing.
- ★ To kick off Catholic Schools week, we will be holding our annual teacher vs student dodgeball game at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, January 28th in the gym. Please see Coach Burger during lunch if you are interested in participating.
- ★ Monday marks the first official day of practice for all of our Spring sports. If you are participating in a Spring sport please check with your coach to make sure you have an up to date physical on file.
- ★ Congratulations to the Men's soccer team last night for defeating Perry Central 8-0. Ricardo Quintana and Chris Collins led the way for the Irish, each scoring multiple goals. The Irish will play host to Resurrection on Senior night this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Come out and support our senior soccer players as they try to secure a spot in the playoffs.
- ★ Today's tennis tryouts have been cancelled due to rain. We will let you know once another date has been secured.
- ★ Coach McDaniel will be conducting time trials for distance runners and sprinters this Friday at 3:15 p.m. at the stadium. Those who are currently participating in a Winter sport are not eligible to participate.